

**REMARKS****I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-17, 20-25 and 28-36 are currently pending. Claims 20, 28 and 30-36 have been withdrawn from consideration.

By this Amendment claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended, and claims 9, 10, 12-17, 20, 22-25 and 28-36 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-8, 11 and 21 would be pending.

**II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103**

Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 21-25 and 29 have been rejected under 36 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cornett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,216,612). Claims 13-17 have been rejected under 36 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cornett. Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cornett in view of Wagner (U.S. Patent No. 4,980,826). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these claims for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 1 and 21, as amended, are directed to a parts ordering system and method (respectively) whereby a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, deliver and receive orders. The second domain receives an order from the first domain, and (in a communication means or step) communicates, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units. The communications means or step prevents the first domain and the third domain from communicating the order to each other.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a communications means or step preventing the first domain and the third domain from communicating the order to each other, in the context of the claimed arrangement as a whole.

For example, Cornett shows a maintenance system which unified a plurality of subsystems (308), and management of part level is performed by the subsystems (3-8). However, the maintenance system of Cornett (as disclosed) does not disclose or suggest any communication control for preventing communication between subsystems such as the first domain and the third domain of claims 1 and 21.

Wagner discusses content for judging about cancellation of ordering, correction of ordering, its execution, or coincidence of ordering (column 13, lines 30-34). As with Cornett, Wagner also does not disclose or suggest any communication control for preventing communication between subsystems such as the first domain and the third domain of claims 1 and 21.

Accordingly, claims 1-8, 11 and 21 are not anticipated by the cited references and are patentably over the cited references, individually or in combination. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are respectfully requested.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

**AUTHORIZATION**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4457. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

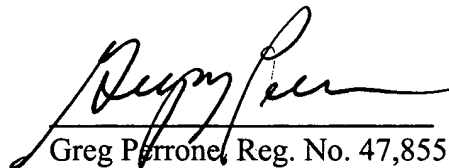
In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4457. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

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